

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                    1.        An optical network comprising:
- 2                    first and second adjacent nodes;
- 3                    a first fiber configured to carry information in a clockwise direction from the
- 4 first node to the second node, the first fiber having wavelength capacity allocated to working
- 5 and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the first fiber
- 6 being respectively assigned to first and second sets of wavelengths; and
- 7                    a second fiber configured to carry information in a counter-clockwise direction
- 8 from the second node to the first node, the second fiber having wavelength capacity allocated
- 9 to working and protection traffic, the working and protection wavelength capacities in the
- 10 second fiber being respectively assigned to the second and first sets of wavelengths.